

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes the addition of the legend “Prior Art” for Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1-2.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendment Claims 1-4 and 12 will be pending with Claims 5-11 having been withdrawn with traverse.

In the specification, the paragraph on page 6, lines 6-10, has been amended to delete the use of the reference numeral 30 with respect to “paper converting machines”. The reference numeral 30 is used with respect to “paper”. See page 7, line 23 – page 8, line 14.

In amended Fig. 1, the legend “Prior Art” has been incorporated because only that which is old is illustrated.

Claims 1-4 remain in this application and have been amended, and new claim 12 has been added. Claims 5-11 were previously withdrawn with traverse. No new matter has been added. The Office Action incorrectly stated that claims 1-3 were pending and that claims 4-11 had been withdrawn. This is incorrect. Only claims 5-11 have been withdrawn. Claim 4 was, and still is, pending in this case.

Claim 4 has not been examined.

Claim 4 was, and still is, pending in this case. The Office Action, however, mistakenly indicated that Claim 4 had been canceled and so did not examine Claim 4. As such, the Office Action mailed 09/11/2006 is incomplete. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(b), and MPEP §§707, 707(a), (g) and (i). Accordingly, applicant respectfully suggests that any subsequent Office Action, other than a Notice of Allowance, should be a non-final Office Action.

Item 1. This item does not require a response.

Item 2. The Patent Office required that Figure 1 should be designated as –Prior Art— because only that which is old is illustrated. Figure 1 has been amended accordingly.

Item 3. The Patent Office objected to Claim 1 because of informalities. Claim 1 has been corrected accordingly.

Item 4. This item does not require a response.

Item 5. The Patent Office rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the use of “or the like”, “it”, “them” and “they”. This is respectfully traversed as it is asserted that the use of “it”, “them” and “they”, although possibly not conventional in patent claiming, is quite clear in its meaning and its referenced element. To be more conventional, however, these have been changed.

Item 6. This item does not require a response.

Item 7. The Patent Office rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,145,040 to Huber. This is respectfully traversed, both in view of the amendments and in view of a correct reading of Huber.

Claim 1, as amended, requires: “providing an interposition element arranged between said suction holes and said suction chamber, said interposition element having a plurality of interposition holes”.

The Patent Office stated that Huber taught sliding of an interposition element (identified by the Patent Office as the combination of Huber 18 and Huber 4, both of which slide). Huber element 18, however, has no interposition holes; it is a simple piston that slides within the suction duct 7 or 11 (Huber Figs. 2-4 and 6; Col. 3, lines 13-18 and line 55 – col. 4, line 12). Huber element 4 is the rotatable outer part of the gripper drum (Col. 2, lines 67-68) and has no interposition holes.

There is no indication in Huber that pistons 18 has any holes whatsoever, nor is there any need for any holes in the pistons 18. Holes in the piston 18 could cause vacuum leakage to the ducts 7 and apply a vacuum where none is desired, or could cause an air leak into the ducts 7 and reduce the vacuum and retention capabilities of the gripper drum. Thus, there is neither incentive nor motivation to modify the pistons 18 to have holes as these could make the modified result unsuitable for its intended purpose.

The Patent Office asserted that Huber components 7 were interposition holes. Huber components 7, however, are not holes, but are radial portions of conduits (Figs. 1, 3 and 4; Col. 3, lines 42-61).

Further, Huber component 4 is the rotatable outer part of the gripper drum and is integral to the suction slots 5 – i.e., the suction slots 5 are made in it. Huber component 4 thus cannot be said to be interposed between itself and an integral part of itself.

The Patent Office also proposed an alternative reading of Huber, stating that the suction holes 9 were in communication with a suction chamber 13, and that the interposition element 12 slid, relative to 9, between the holes 9 and the suction chamber 13. This strained interpretation of “suction holes” is not supported by Huber in any way. Huber states that components 9, like components 7, are radial portions of conduits (Figs. 1, 3 and 4; Col. 3, lines 42-61). Also, if the Huber component 12 is considered to be the interposition member, then it will be noted that component 12 is the stationary inner part of the gripper drum and is integral to the conduits 9 – i.e., the conduits 9 are made in it. Huber component 12 thus cannot be said to be interposed between itself and an integral part of itself. Therefore, claim 1 is neither anticipated by Huber nor obvious in view of Huber.

With respect to Claim 2, the Patent Office did not state that any part of the text of Item 7 was particularly directed to Claim 2. It is presumed that last sentence in Item 7 is directed to Claim 2. Even so, however, the Patent Office simply stated that “Note that at least part of the interposition holes is slotted 14.” (Page 5.) Claim 2, as amended, requires: “said interposition element has a plurality of positions and at least one of said interposition holes is slotted so that said at least one slotted interposition hole is aligned with said suction hole in at least two positions of said interposition element.” Huber component 14 is not a slotted hole. Huber clearly states that component 14 is a peripheral groove, not a slotted hole, in the drum surface 12A. (Col. 3, lines 3-7.) A peripheral groove is not a slotted hole. A peripheral groove in a tire separates and defines the roadway contact areas – commonly called the tire treads, whereas a slotted hole in a tire makes a flat tire. Accordingly, claim 2 is further patentable over Huber.

With respect to Claim 3, the Patent Office did not state that any part of the text of Item 7 was particularly directed to Claim 3. It is presumed that the last sentence in the second paragraph of Item 7 on page 4 (“Note that 18 slides in the longitudinal direction.”) was directed to Claim 3. Claim 3 requires: “said chamber is a longitudinal chamber, and said sliding is carried out in a longitudinal direction.” The only component of Huber which slides

in a longitudinal direction is the piston 18, and piston 18 does not have the interposition holes and is not the interposition element. Therefore, the sliding of Huber piston 18 does not suggest or disclose sliding of an interposition element having interposition holes, within a longitudinal chamber. Accordingly, claim 3 is further patentable over Huber.

With respect to Claim 4, the Patent Office did not examine or reject claim 4. Therefore, the Patent Office did not state that any part of the text of Item 7 was particularly directed to Claim 4. In the interest of advancing this case to allowance, however, Claim 4 will be addressed. Claim 4 requires: "said sliding is carried out in a circumferential direction." Claim 1, from which Claim 4 depends, requires the roller to comprise the channel so that the interposition element slides in the channel. The only component of Huber which moves in a circumferential direction is the rotatable outer part 4 of the gripper drum and it does not move in a channel. Therefore, the circumferential sliding is neither suggested nor disclosed by Huber and, accordingly, claim 4 is further patentable over Huber.

Finally, new claim 12 requires that "the interposition element has interposition holes arranged to cause both a first pattern of suction holes to be in communication with said suction chamber and a second pattern of suction holes to be in communication with said suction chamber, the first pattern and the second pattern being separated by suction holes which are not in communication with said suction chamber, the method further comprising securing a first paper product using said first pattern while simultaneously securing a second paper product using said second pattern, the second paper product being spaced apart from said first paper product by at least one suction hole which is not in communication with said suction chamber." Support for Claim 12 is provided in Figs. 9 and 10 and the text on Page 8, lines 9-16.

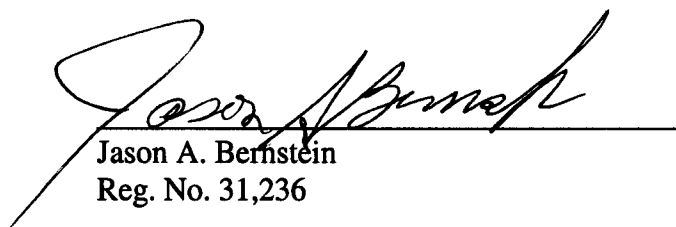
Huber neither suggests nor discloses that two different paper products can be simultaneously secured by his product. Further, there is no arrangement of his piston 18 which is designed to accommodate two different paper products. All piston 18 can do is to reduce the size of the suction area for the particular paper product being secured. Huber piston 18 cannot simultaneously provide a suction area for one paper product and a different suction area for another paper product, with a non-suction area separating the two paper products,

Therefore, new claim 12 is further patentable over Huber.

CONCLUSION

As such above, claims 1-4 and 12 are neither anticipated by Huber nor obvious in view of Huber. Applicant submits that the patent application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such action. If the Examiner has any questions that can be answered by telephone, please contact the patent attorney of record at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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